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ABSTRACT

This report provides a method for determining minimum score by vocational program based on the use of the Wonderlic Scholastic Level Exam (SLE). The SLE has been demonstrated to be a highly accurate and reliable measure of adult cognitive ability. It is currently in use as an admissions test at many career colleges and trade schools. The SLE test score records of 21,406 student applicants from 84 schools in 28 states provided the student sample for this report, which provides a comparative evaluation of student ability as against ability of job applicants in the general labor market for 45 vocation titles. The suggested minimum admissions scores are based on combined research by the test publisher and the U.S. Department of Labor. An analysis is made of the relationship between student ability level and loan default rate. This analysis suggests that school administrators may reduce default rates significantly by recruiting and selecting students who more closely match the ability level of job applicants from the general labor market. Demographics of student applicants are summarized. Appendices contain an interpretation guide for the Wonderlic Personnel Test and SLE; a comparative job title ranking by mental ability; and a list of occupational characteristics defining the math, language, physical, and training time demands for selected jobs. Thirteen tables and 11 graphs present study and normative data. A 21-item list of references is included. (SLD)

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